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ELIZABETH CITY, N. C. FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1920

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AYDLETT SAYS HE HAS BEEN MISREPRESENTED

Makes Lengthy Reply To Article Published In
This Newspaper Last Week—Wants
Saunders To Call Names and
Saunders Calls 'Em.

Hon. E. F. Aydlett objects to the way this newspaper calls attention to the valuation of his property and his activities in getting his valuations lowered. His communication defending himself and attacking the veracity of this newspaper is published herewith, together with a reply by W. O. Saunders.

MR. AYDLETT CONTENTS
Mr. W. O. Saunders,
Editor of The Independent,
Elizabeth City, N. C.

Dear Sir:—
I ask you to publish the following, correcting what you said about me and the valuation of my property for taxation in the last issue of your paper. You have grossly misrepresented me and I want to give you a chance to correct it. If you have done it through false information, I am sure you will. If through ill-will, then I suppose you will not. I had supposed you were sincere in your profession at the Culpepper meeting, but you seem from time to time to show your ill-will towards me without the slightest cause.

In your article you misrepresent the facts from the beginning to the end and not satisfied with this, close with a threat at me which shows the venom you bear towards me. You say considerable dissatisfaction is being manifested by certain taxpayers in the fact that I seem to have had an inside in the revaluation of my property. Anyone who says that I have had any inside track in securing values on my property states what is not true. I do not believe there is a citizen in Elizabeth City who has any such dissatisfaction. If they have been misinformed as to the facts, I ask you to publish the names of anyone who bears such feeling and if you will not do that, then name the names. There is no foundation for such feeling. You say it is probable that I will get lower valuations on my properties than others in the same class. You are wrong in this. My property now, and has at all times been valued as high as that of other citizens in some class. Mr. J. B. Flora did not get along before his death that his property and mine were valued on the tax lists higher than any others in town.

As to "inside track," I have not even been treated fairly. The appraisers valued my property and gave me notice as they did every other citizen that I could be heard, and naming the day. Like many others, I went before the Board and they gave me a patient and respectful hearing, and reduced the valuation on several pieces of my property. They did not do this to me. I supposed everything was satisfactory. Mr. J. P. Thompson, the Supervisor, was present at that hearing and raised no objection. After I left, he appealed from the valuation fixed by the appraisers on my home, the Bee Hive property and the Southern Hotel. I knew nothing of this appeal until on Monday, July 12th, when I received a letter from Mr. Becton, District Supervisor, saying that he would be here Tuesday morning, July 13th, to hear the appeals, and for me to be present and show cause, if any, why the values should not be increased. I did not know to which place, or pieces, the appeal applied, whether one or more. I wrote a letter to Mr. Becton, which he received when he reached here Tuesday, July 13th, informing him I had to be in Raleigh on that day to appear in an important case in the U. S. Court, and therefore could not meet him, and that I had to be in Asheville on Thursday to appear in the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals in an important case. In my letter I notified him that I wanted to be heard. I have never received a reply. He recommended that the Bee Hive property be raised from \$27,500 to \$40,000, the Southern Hotel from \$20,000 to \$37,500, and my home from \$15,000 to \$18,000, without giving me a hearing. If that is an inside track, then I have it. I notified the Corporation and asked for a hearing and they gave it to me, as they would give any citizen.

You say that I have appealed from the appraisement. This is untrue. I have not appealed from a single appraisement placed upon any of my properties. Mr. J. P. Thompson appealed from the three named above. I have only answered his appeals. The appraisements in this county are unusually high compared with other counties.

You say the tax assessor appraised the Bee Hive property at \$40,000. I do not know what he did. I know he had no right to do it if he did. The two appraisers valued it at \$32,000. When I was notified by Mr. Thompson, I informed him it was appraised at \$32,000, and I could be heard if it was \$32,000, and I was heard by the Board as stated above, and it was reduced to \$27,500. You, or anyone else, who would fix the value of the Bee Hive property the same as the Savings Bank property just across the street, have no idea of true values of property in that location. The Bank knew better. I offered it the Bee Hive property for \$30,000. This was declined and they paid \$45,000 for the

other place. The values for taxes are assessed at the true value in May, 1919 and not now. Everybody knows prices have advanced very much since May, 1919. The Bank property fronts as many feet on Main Street as the Bee Hive property, but is not quite as deep. It has for years been considered the best location for a store in town, and rented higher because of its location. It has upon it a new and up-to-date three story building, heated with steam, and is the handsomest building of its kind in Elizabeth City, except the Post Office, and is today worth at least \$20,000 more than the building on the Bee Hive property.

You compare the Bee Hive property with the Robinson property. You failed, however, to say that the appraisers fixed the valuation on that property at \$30,000, and Mr. Robinson appeared before the Board as I did, and the Board reduced the valuation to \$40,000. That building is a comparatively new building, with six stores on the first floor, and offices on the second, and halls on the third. You failed to say it fronts on Polk Street about 120 feet and will rent for from \$1,200.00 to \$1,400.00 per annum more than my building.

The Kramer building is referred to. You know that fronts nearly twice as many feet on Main Street as mine and has upon it an up-to-date office building, comparatively new, with stores below. The building is heated with steam and has water, and will rent for three times as much as my building.

The building on my lot does not compare with either of these buildings. The Savings Bank property was valued at \$45,000 by the appraisers and it appeared before the Board and asked for it to be reduced to \$40,000. This was declined and the Bank appealed, and Mr. Becton recommended it be reduced to \$40,000.

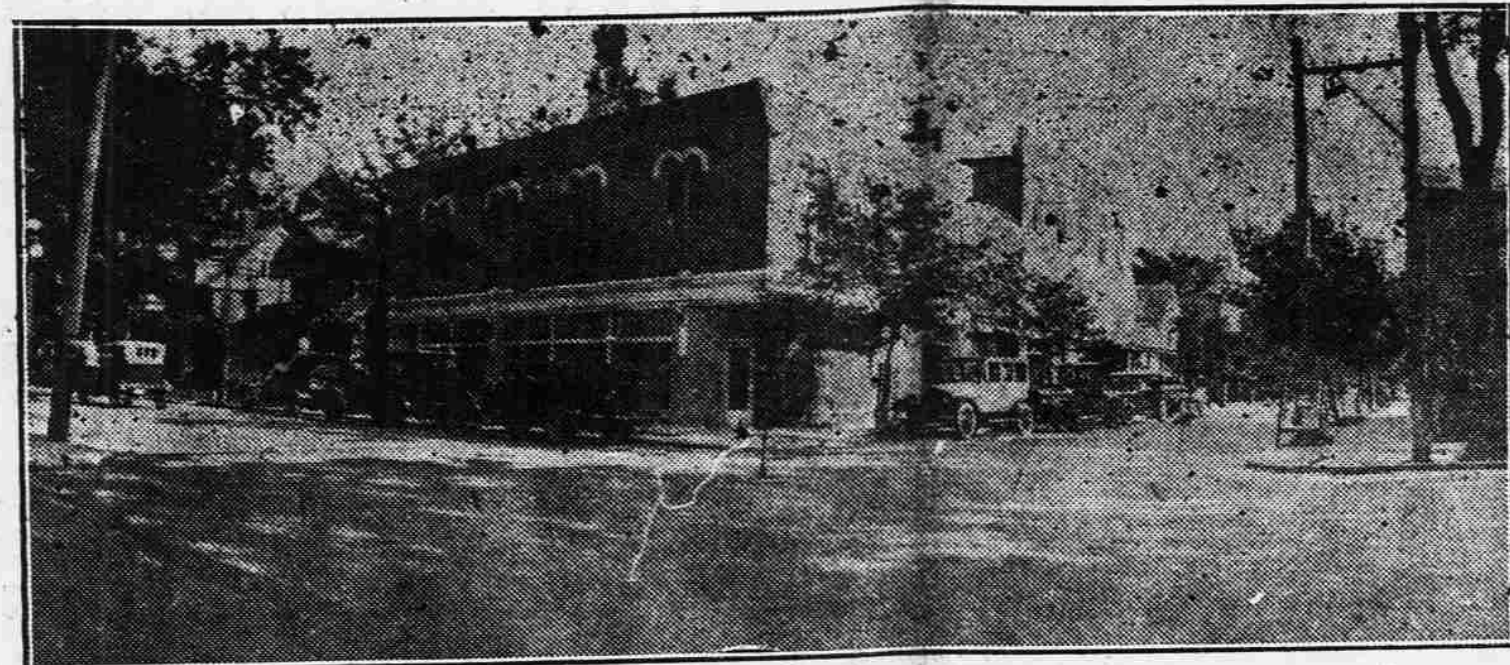
There are many citizens who appeared before the Board as I did, and got reductions. You say I am appealing to the State Tax Commissioner to get the value cut down on my home from \$15,000 to \$12,500. This is untrue in two respects. First, I am not appealing; second, I am not asking the value be placed at \$12,500. I do not understand why you make such unfair statements. The facts are these. The appraisers fixed the values on the homes of Messrs. C. E. and J. P. Kramer, and myself, at \$18,000 each. Both of the Kramers went before the Board before I did and asked for a reduction. The Board reduced the value on Mr. C. E. Kramer's home to \$15,000, on Mr. J. P. Kramer's home to \$14,000, and on mine to \$15,000. Mr. C. H. Robinson at the same time asked for reduction on his home and it was granted. The next I heard was the Becton letter saying that there was an appeal and I could be heard on Tuesday morning. The others were heard, I was in Raleigh and Asheville and could not be, but was heard by the State Tax Commission on Mr. Thompson's appeal from the \$15,000 appraisement, he wanting it raised to \$18,000.

You say my activities in getting the valuations on my property below that of my neighbors is causing "unwholesome talk." I do not believe this, and again ask you to give the names of any who are doing any "unwholesome" talking. No one would, who knew the facts. You say I have been swearing in my Clark Building and Southern Hotel at \$11,875 each for taxation. This is untrue. It is pitiful how you show your ignorance if you don't know any better, or your spleen if you do. Every citizen who has owned real estate in North Carolina did not value his real estate. It was valued by three disinterested freeholders and was listed for taxation at the values fixed by them. Neither I, nor any other citizen, have had to value our real estate for taxation before this year. The truth is the values on my Clark Building and Southern Hotel were placed there by three assessors four years ago, as they did other real estate, and this valuation has stood until this year. No owner of real estate valued his real estate, nor did he swear to its value. It is valued once every four years for taxation.

Now a word about this tax system which was passed by you, and others, while you were in the Legislature, claiming to represent Pasquotank County. It has thus far cost the tax payers of this county nearly \$7,000.00 and is not finished. As being administered it will work a great hardship upon the tax payers of this county, because of the high values placed upon the property of our people. The real estate in this county was valued among the highest of any county in the state up to this year. So much so the Corporation Commission in Raleigh four years ago, of its own motion reduced the values 5 per cent to place them on a fair basis with the values in other counties in the state.

The values now placed upon the real estate and personal property of the individuals in this county have been increased over 33 1-3 per cent, while the lands and personal property of our

Automotive Sales May Center About This Corner



HERE is an interesting panoramic view of the corner of Main and Road streets in Elizabeth City, showing the offices and show rooms of J. H. McMullan, Jr., "Studebaker Exclusively." This neighborhood promises to be the center of the automobile trade in this city in a few years. Plans are under way for the construction of a block of automobile show room on the Scott property on the northwest corner of Main and Road streets, opposite the Studebaker show rooms.

A NEW DISTRICT ROAD MEASURE

Ferebee Road Bill Re-Written
And New Effort Will Be
Made For District
Highway

At a conference in the office of the State Highway Commission in Raleigh Tuesday night, Senator Miles W. Ferebee and the representatives of the five counties embraced in the Northeastern North Carolina Highway District agreed upon a practically new draft of the Ferebee District Highway Bill, under which it is hoped a hard surface road connecting the county seats of Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank and Currituck will be built.

The new bill will follow the suggestions made by W. O. Saunders in this newspaper two weeks ago. Pending the availability of state and federal aid sufficient to build a hard surface road from Edenton to the Virginia line, the District Highway Commission will, under state and federal supervision begin the construction of a foundation road which will be hard surfaced when funds are available. The funds are not available now and may not be for several years to come. But before even a hard surface road can be built there is work to be done involving the expenditure of several hundred thousand dollars.

The road lines must be straightened. Bridges and culverts must be built. Swamps must be filled. And both surface and sub-drainage must be provided. All of this preliminary work must be done and it can be done now. When done it will provide a good dirt road which will serve the district very well indeed for a few years until it can be hard surfaced. The bill will guarantee the eventual hard surfacing of the road with state and federal aid and not a dollar will be spent until state and federal aid are available.

Nor will any tax levy made until state and federal aid is secured. There will be no bond issue until state and federal aid is available and then only such bonds will be issued as will be required from time to time.

But instead of a bond issue being levied upon the district, creating complications as under the old act, each county will make its own bond issue. Camden would be obligated to bond for \$50,000 for her proportion of the district cost; Currituck \$75,000; Chowan \$50,000; Perquimans \$130,000; Pasquotank \$200,000. Tax monies already paid in by the counties under the old Ferebee bill will be turned into the county treasuries to create a sinking fund to be used in the retirement of future bond issues.

The new act will contemplate the bridging of Pasquotank river at or near Elizabeth City as one of the first links in the proposed highway. The State Highway Commission will determine the type of bridge to be built and designate where it shall be built.

The new act will provide not only for the construction of the road to the Virginia line, but provides for a four mile spur to Currituck C. H. since the state highway act of 1919 provides that road projects to receive state aid must connect county seats and principal cities within the state.

Chairman Chas. Whedbee of the District Highway Commission set to work upon the draft of the new bill Wednesday morning and, after another conference of the Representatives concerned the new bill will be introduced in the Senate this week.

Chairman Frank Page of the State Highway Commission emphatically endorsed the Saunders idea of beginning with a foundation road rather than waiting indefinitely for sufficient funds to build a hard surfaced road. Senator Ferebee, who recently stated that he would not consent to the expenditure of any part of a bond issue on a dirt road, revised his position when assured that such a road would be built with the guarantee that it would be followed up with more permanent construction.

Will Open Its Doors Tomorrow



TO-MORROW, Saturday, August 14, will be a momentous day for the Negroes of Elizabeth City and environs, for that date marks the opening of the Albemarle Bank, a financial institution organized by Negroes, capitalized by Negroes and to be operated exclusively by Negroes. The new bank will occupy the quarters long occupied by the Citizens Bank before its merger with the First National. It is one of the handsomest buildings in the city and its acquisition by the Negroes has given them a footing in the very business district of Elizabeth City. The new bank will play an important part in the social and industrial life of northeastern North Carolina, because it will devote its energies to inculcating thrift among the colored people of all these northeastern North Carolina counties and will organize the Negro wealth of this section for the first time. The Albemarle Bank is capitalized at \$25,000, will be under state supervision and its officers and directors represent the most intelligent, most conservative and most reliable colored citizens in this city and section. The experiment will be watched with interest.

WOOL GROWERS MAY STILL GET BLANKETS

Farmers Interested Should See County
Agent Falls

Forty to fifty Pasquotank farmers benefitted by the co-operative shipment of wool sent to manufacturers to be converted into blankets last Saturday. Practically an entire carload was made up, the shippers sending wool for from one to five pairs of blankets per man. Since last Saturday five other small shipments have gone, and others will follow during the next ten days, or as long as the offer of the manufacturers to make double blankets for \$5 per pair holds good. Wool made into blankets in this way represents a saving of about 46 cents per pound to wool growers. County Demonstration Agent Grover W. Falls, who is handling the shipments, says that he has had inquiries and requests in connection with the co-operative shipping of wool from practically every adjoining county, and even from Suffolk and Franklin, Virginia. Pasquotank county farmers are advised that they may make single shipments through him until the offer of the manufacturers is withdrawn.

ELKS MINSTREL SHOW SEPT. 9-10
The first preliminary arrangements are now being made for the Elks annual minstrel show which will be staged at the Elizabeth City High School, September 9th and 10th. The program will be arranged and directed by the Joe Brand Production company of Chicago, and indications are that the Elks of this city will pull one of the biggest of their ever popular and amusing entertainments ever seen here.

Give the cover crops a good start before cold weather comes.

BLIND LADY TO RENDER PROGRAM

An entertainment will be given next Monday night, August 16th at Fork High School, near this city, by Mrs. Emma Broyles, of Lincoln, N. C., who was formerly Miss Emma Jackson of this city. Mrs. Broyles, who is totally blind, will show how the blind are taught to read and write, and will also render an amusing and entertaining program, at the close of which refreshments will be sold. The admission will be 15 cents for adults, and ten cents for children. The general public is invited to attend. Mrs. Broyles will give a similar entertainment at Bowdoin School, at the end of Euclid Heights paved road, on Friday night, August 20th.

Hathaway Says

If you wear glasses, have your eyes and glasses both examined from time to time, and go to the place where you can afford to pay a reasonable price for real professional work. Remember your eyes are your bread-winners. Take care of them.

You have your teeth examined twice a year. Why not your eyes? They are more important.

Dr. J. D. Hathaway
Optometrist
Phone 999 Bradford Bldg.

THE SPECIAL SESSION OF YOUR GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Called For The Purpose of Adjusting The Tax
Rate, But Seems Chiefly Concerned With
a Little of Every Thing Else

Raleigh, N. C., August 11—The special session of the North Carolina General Assembly convened at 11 o'clock Tuesday morning. The purpose of this special session is to adjust the tax rate to the new valuation of real and personal property under the Revaluation Act of 1919, and such other grave and important matters as may appear.

But one coming into Raleigh with the legislators Monday and mingling with them for a day was almost made to forget the definite purpose of this extraordinary session. The solons came talking about everything except taxation and every little Representative and every inflated senator came with his pockets laden with local bills. There is no telling just how long this special session will last or what it will do.

Three things seem uppermost in the minds of the members of the Legislature: 1. Woman Suffrage. 2. Good Roads. 3. Tax eradication. The latter is a new way of saying State Wide Stock law. The matter of adjusting the tax rate appears a secondary matter, a thing for committees to worry over and for members to vote as a matter of course.

Only Governor Bickett seemed not to forget that the tax rate is the main consideration. In his message delivered to the General Assembly in person Tuesday morning he confined himself to the matter in hand, reserving the discussion of suffrage and other matters for a second message to be delivered later in the week. And that governor of yours made a powerful speech. Many have called it the best speech he has ever made, and that is saying much, for Bickett is a clever speech maker.

In his speech Governor Bickett gave a summary of the returns from the recent Revaluation, which summary follows:

SUMMARY	
The total value of all property of every kind listed in the year 1920, was	\$3,139,000,000.
The total value of all property of every kind listed in the year 1919, was	1,099,000,000.
An increase of	\$2,040,000,000.
The total value of all real estate listed in 1920, was	1,981,000,000.
The total value of all real estate listed in 1919, was	506,000,000.
An increase of	\$1,475,000,000.
The total value of personal property in 1920, was	\$138,000,000.
Total value of corporate property in 1920, was	\$71,000,000.
Total value in 1919, was	298,000,000.
Increase	\$373,000,000.
Total solvent credits for 1920, was	213,000,000.
Total solvent credits for 1919, was	90,000,000.
Increase	\$123,000,000.
Total value of all public utilities in 1920, was	345,000,000.
Total value of all public utilities in 1919, was	138,000,000.
Increase	\$207,000,000.

"These are inspiring figures" declared Governor Bickett. "To them every North Carolinian can point with pardonable pride. They demonstrate that North Carolina is per capita the very richest state in the South. When this legislature adjourns we will have the lowest tax rate of any state in the American Union."

"The Revaluation Act was not intended to cure all the tax evils to which the human race is heir. From the day that Augustus Caesar issued his immortal edict that the whole world should be taxed, all the nations of the earth have been wrestling with tax problems, and I doubt not that a thousand years from today the General Assembly of North Carolina will be exerting all its energies of mind, and soul and body to devise a tax system that will provide adequate revenues to maintain a decent civilization and at the same time convince their constituents that the legislators are not a band of highwaymen bent on confiscating all the property of the people."

"The Revaluation Act was designed to do these things:—

1. To make the tax books of North Carolina speak the truth.
2. To wipe out discriminations and inequalities between different classes of people and property, and
3. To find and place on the tax books property that has heretofore escaped taxation.

"Gentlemen, the record is before you, and it demonstrates with the convincing certainty of mathematics that the first two objects have been attained with remarkable accuracy and completeness,

been fully reached we are travelling fast in that direction."

The Governor's recommendation was couched in the following language:—

"In order to meet the fears of the timid,—for I myself do not fear the people nor their representatives,—I recommend that the present constitutional limitation of 66 2-3 cents on the one hundred dollars worth of property be reduced to 15c. The limitation does not apply to tax levied for the support of the schools. The people of the state in ninety-nine counties have voted that the public schools must be maintained for six months and that no constitutional limitation must stand in the way of this supreme mandate. The income tax amendment and the amendment reducing the limitation from 66 2-3 to 15c are to be treated as one. This amendment will bring to the State, by levying a graduated tax from 1 to 2 1-4 per cent on all incomes, an additional revenue of two and a quarter million dollars."

After going into the matter thoroughly, and considering every possible phase of the question, I am satisfied that the reduction to 15c is a wise and safe one.

"The present income tax levied on earned incomes is graduated from 1 to 2 1-2 per cent. For the immediate future a similar graduated tax on unearned incomes would produce a revenue sufficient to enable the state to refrain from levying any tax on real and personal property for state purposes, and leave all this property to the counties and towns."

The Suffrage Question.

Woman Suffrage is going to have hard sledding at this special session. This fact is admitted to-day by its best friends. The Suffragists can not count even upon their friends, many of whom seem to have contracted cold feet right here in the middle of August. Party leaders are bringing every pressure to bear upon the members to induce them to save the party nationally by making Democratic North Carolina the thirty sixth state to ratify. But no argument seems to penetrate the antis. The antis seem thoroughly argument proof. I would take Dr. B. F. Halsey of Washington county as an example. Dr. Halsey is out and out anti and says so every time he gets a chance. I asked him to give me some good reason why women should not be permitted to vote. He twisted about in his seat a moment and then pulled himself together and asserted: "Because I don't believe they've got a damn thing to do with it!" Only he put a deifying noun in front of the damn. That's your anti. He doesn't believe that a woman's got a gee dee thing to do with his tobacco, his liquor, his night prowling or his politics.

TWO OLD EMPLOYES OF POST OFFICE RETIRED

Mr. Culpepper and Mr. Spence Fall Under the Retirement Act, To Quit Saturday, Aug. 21.

Under the Postal Employees Retirement Act approved May 6, 1920, the Elizabeth City post office will lose two of its oldest and most faithful employees who will give way to younger heads. M. B. Culpepper in charge of the Money Order division and B. F. Spence, in charge of stamp sales at the Elizabeth City post office will be retired on August 21, 1920. Mr. Culpepper has been in the employ of the Elizabeth City post office nearly 18 years. Mr. Spence has served for 13 years. Under the Retirement Act Mr. Culpepper will draw a pension of \$30 a month as he has served more than 15 years. Not having served 15 years Mr. Spence retires without a pension.

Under the retirement employees subject to retirement may continue in service an additional two years upon the recommendation of the postmaster. Postmaster Pendleton recommended both Mr. Culpepper and Mr. Spence for continued service, but the recommendation was ignored at Washington.

The vacancies will be filled from the Civil Service waiting list and those in line for the appointments are Miss Carrie Staples, Miss Jessie Sedgwick, Morrisette Pendleton, W. M. Hinton, Jr. and John W. Griffin.

THEY WILL LOCATE HERE

Attracted by the beauty, progressive-ness and general desirability of Elizabeth City as an ideal place in which to live, Messrs. R. H. Westbrook of Greensboro and L. G. Long of El Paso, Texas, have decided to make this city their home. They are associated with the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance company.

CLOSES SATURDAY AFTERNOONS

A. R. Nicholson, freight agent for the Norfolk Southern railroad at this city, announces that the freight warehouse of the railroad will be closed Saturday afternoons beginning tomorrow, August 14th. No freight will be received or delivered after one o'clock.

No city in the nation is removed from starvation more than two weeks.—Asbury F. Lever.